

a sudden jar seems to injure the creatures. I find a tomahawk better than an axe. It is also an advantage to wedge the timber as it is split.

A few of the pupae reached the adult stage, but when the elytra commenced to form they stuck together on the edge of the abdomen and shrivelled up. These particular specimens had been placed in small jars in the observation case and it appeared that moisture forming in the jar may have damped the elytra, preventing their complete development. The successfully reared specimens had been placed in matchbox traps.

On January 30, 1951, I again cut open some more *Casuarina* trunks and obtained two very active female *Curis*. The tree had quite a number of larvae in it. They were a watery-white, with a black food streak showing down the abdomen. They were immature stages of the larvae I had obtained in the previous November and were only about one inch in length. I take it they were the next generation of *Curis*.

A single free individual of *Curis* was seen on January 30, on the leaves of a paperbark tree. This may well prove to be the food plant of the beetle. Unfortunately the insect was too quick for me and my net missed it by inches as it whirred away to freedom.

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**Red-winged Wren at Roleystone.**—In view of reports of the apparent diminution of range of the Red-winged Wren (*Malurus elegans*) near Perth, I would like to record the observation of a male in full plumage at Roleystone on October 4, 1950. The bird was seen in tea tree thickets in a swamp situation besides a small creek running into the Canning River at Croydon Road, about 6 miles below the Canning dam.

—A. NOTLEY, Roleystone.

**Quokka Feeding on Introduced Snail and Stinkwort.**—Quokkas (*Setonix brachyurus*) at Rottnest Island have acquired a taste for many unusual things as may be seen by their foraging in the rubbish bins. In January 1950 I noticed two unexpected items in their diet. A group of these marsupials was being watched in broad daylight and at close quarters, so close that one Quokka accidentally nibbled my thumb while eating a lettuce leaf I held for it. It turned from my thumb without hopping away and then ate from a bush close by several white snails (*Helix pisana*), all with much relish and crackling. The next item of food was equally astonishing. They nibbled avidly at the dry stalks of stinkwort (*Inula graveolens* Desf.).

—(Mrs.) RICA ERICKSON, "Fairlea," Bolgart.

**Red-tailed Tropic-bird at Albany.**—Though the most southern known regular nesting place of the Red-tailed Tropic-bird (*Phaethon rubricauda*) is at the Abrolhos, some individuals have been known to wander south and east as far as South Australia. On March 19, 1951, I saw a bird from the F.R.V. *Warreen* off Albany,  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile off the south-west side of Breaksea Island. The day was calm with a